

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE
PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, AND
CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received from the 16th to the 23rd of March, 1870.

THE *Allygurh Institute Gazette* of the 11th of March has an article by Syed Ahmed upon the prejudices of Natives against travelling on boardship to other countries. The writer does not deem it wrong to eat flesh and fowl slaughtered by the hands of Christians after their own mode of killing the animals; but he says that if any bigoted Musalman should think it unlawful, he could very easily obtain live animals from the Captain of the ship, and thus obviate the difficulty. He further states that fish and eggs can be procured at Aden, Suez, Alexandria, &c., while from Bombay to Suez, meat, slaughtered according to Musalman rules, can be procured from the Mahomedan sailors even without extra charge. The writer furthermore considers, that, under certain circumstances, it is not unlawful for the most bigoted Mahomedans to eat with Christians, and that being on boardship for some time on a journey with them is sufficient excuse for it. With reference to the *Shias*, the writer says, that the matter is rendered easy for them by their doctrine, that it is incumbent upon them to eat whatever is offered to them by a Musalman brother without asking questions as to its ceremonial purity; and that all they have to do is to take with them a friend or servant of the *Sunni* sect, who can serve them with the food they require on boardship, and himself bear the responsibility attaching to it. He further alludes to the water on boardship--that for

bathing being salt water pumped up from the sea, so that there can be no question about its ceremonial purity—and that for drinking being the same salt water distilled, and rendered thereby sweet and palatable. As far as the Hindoos are concerned, he thinks that they will have to encounter greater hardships on such journeys, and that the best way for them to escape contamination, would be to take their own supply of water for a month in casks, kept free from the touch of strangers; but he says that the best way to avoid the difficulty about cooking their food, would be for Hindoo travellers to carry with them a sufficient supply ready cooked, which could easily be done for 25 days. The writer concludes by stating that any native of this country may, without any breach of his religious observances, undertake the journey to Europe, and improve his mind by travel, which he exhorts all to do, in order that they may see the wonders of the world, and the marvels of God's power.

The *Malwa Ukhbar* of the 9th March, noticing recent reductions in the several departments of the State, considers them all right and proper; but he is of opinion that it is an act of injustice to reduce the Native army, and not the European. The latter, he says, is much more expensive than the former, independent of the large sums devoted to building barracks, and it would have been far more profitable to reduce it than the Native army. He says,—“Some people may think that the European is a better disciplined and more powerful soldier than the Native, but this is erroneous. If the Government were to raise the pay of the Native troops to that of the Europeans, and observe the same careful watchfulness over their food, the Hindostanee would not be inferior in discipline and strength. Then, again, see how the European officers encourage and gratify the wants of their men, and how kind they are to them, which is not the case in the Hindostanee corps where everything is exacted by abuse and anger. We have never known of an English officer asking a Native soldier to do anything kindly and gently without its being readily done. To those

who are acquainted with the history of India, it must be known that when Bhurtpore was assaulted, the European troops were useless, and the Native army did all the fighting. Therefore, all things considered, the writer is of opinion that it is an act of injustice to reduce the Native army, and that to do so shows an unfair partiality for the European troops.

This writer also alludes to the proposed reductions in the Educational Department, and the opinion of the Director of Public Instruction in Bengal, which is against the measure, and against any increase of the fees; in all which he supports the Director, and concludes by saying that the shears have reached to the very hearts of the people, and should now be withdrawn.

The *Ukhbar Alum* of the 10th of March does not call for special notice.

The *Educational Gazette* of the 10th of March publishes an article addressed to those who approve of the reduction system. The writer says, "that Government has determined to carry out this measure, and that certain employés think that as retrenchment is so necessary to Government, a little less work would be no less so to themselves; and he instances the case of a certain Sub-Deputy Inspector of the Educational Department at Etawah, who does not approve of the plan of collecting together small boys for examination by the Inspector: because they might be carried off by wolves, or some one might take a fancy to their ornaments, or he have the trouble of arranging for their conveyance, and some complaints reach the Inspector so as to cause dissatisfaction at his (the Sub-Deputy's) arrangements." The writer thinks that all this only tends to show the unfitness of the Sub-Deputy; and he promises to refer to the subject at some future time. It is further said, in connection with this subject, that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and the Director of Public Instruction, visited the Sanscrit College, Calcutta, and were

occupied for two hours examining the accounts of expenses and all connected with the Institute—the result being that they were unsuccessful in discovering any instance of extravagance. The writer concludes by saying,—“May God do all for the best: some say that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is averse to the reduction of a pice, but all are powerless when the *Hakim* wills it. Some have gone so far as to say that this has been the cause of the Lieutenant-Governor resigning his appointment.”

The *Koh-i-Noor* of the 12th of March publishes in its correspondence a complaint of the trouble and annoyance travellers are subjected to on the Delhi Railway between Delhi and Umballa. The writer expresses great surprise that notwithstanding the superintendence of the officers on the line, so much cause for dissatisfaction should continue; and says that the general idea is that they, the said officers, do not pay sufficient attention to their work. The writer says he has seen with his own eyes, and can vouch for the truth of all he says, that Station Masters will not listen to any complaints, and it seems to him that the Agent of the Punjab Railway must be ignorant of it, or such a state of affairs could not exist. In the first place, he says, the Railway Police are very hard upon travellers. A person charged with having broken a pane of glass is confined, and, after undergoing a great deal of annoyance, is released by the Station Master. Again, it is almost the universal custom along the line for the Police to receive fees of from two to four annas, and if not paid they treat travellers very harshly, detaining them under all sorts of pretences (of carrying too much luggage, &c.), so that it frequently happens that the train goes and the travellers are left behind. “In regard to female passengers, the ticket collectors carry on jokes with them, and keeps them for one or even two hours at stations, under some pretence or other, generally giving as the reason that their girls or boys with them are older than they have been represented. The man whose duty it is to supply drinking water to Hindoo travel-

lers is never to be found at the station when the train arrives. It is the duty of the Traffic Manager and Superintendent to look to all this on their tours up and down the line : for travellers have no opportunity of complaining to them."

The writer does not consider the 15 or 20 minutes' halt allowed to travellers sufficient to allow them to make themselves comfortable; and he thinks it a pity that while the Government displays the greatest interest and anxiety about the comfort and convenience of travellers, the arrangements of the Railway officials are by no means conducive to comfort. He says that the want of "commodes" in third-class carriages, as well as in the second class, is the cause of much sickness. He thinks that such accommodation in the carriages provided for Native women is absolutely necessary. Again, he says, the Railway Company have taken contracts from sweetmeat vendors for the supply of their wares on the platforms where no others are allowed admission, and the result is that people are obliged to take what they can get, and pay so dearly that it is utter ruin to the purchasers, and yet no officer forbids it. He further complains that at some stations the Agents of the Dâk Companies are not allowed on the platform, and this causes considerable inconvenience to ladies with children, as they have to carry their own luggage from the platform to the carriages.

The want of lights in third-class carriages is also complained of, "as many articles are left in carriages because the owners cannot see where they are lying." All this, the writer says, shows a great want of management on the part of the Railway officials, and he concludes by expressing a hope that what he has written may meet the eyes of the Agent and Traffic Manager, for their information.

The *Urdu Delhi Gazette* of the 12th of March does not call for special notice.

The *Unjuman Hind* of the 12th of March alludes to the late disturbances at Dehra Ishmael Khan, and also to a col-

lection of Wazerees about 14 miles from Tonk; referring to which the writer says,—“ Shah Newaz Khan, Nawab of Tonk, could not do anything to prevent this; the Government used to look upon him as its Political Agent, but when he cannot keep the hill tribes in subjection, it is not strange that an agent on the part of Government becomes necessary.”

The *Julwatoor* of the 15th of March, referring to a statement which appeared in the *Times of India*, to the effect that a band of Russians had arrived at Bombay, says,—“ Perhaps our countrymen may be alarmed at this, and think that they have come to take notes of Hindostan, but there is nothing at all in it: they are only traders.”

An Agra correspondent, alluding to the dearness of grain at that station, draws the attention of the authorities to the numerous underground grain stores existing there. The writer adds that these ought to be opened out as soon as possible, otherwise it will be too late to save many lives.

The *Khair Khwah-i-Punjab* of the second week of March does not require special notice, and the same remark applies to the *Rohilkhund Ukhbar* of the 12th, and the *Sholatoor* of the 15th.

The *Noorool Absar* of the 15th of March directs attention to the advantages of appointing Hindostanees to high offices—such as Judgeships of the High Court, the Civil Courts, &c. The writer argues that as they are experienced in the customs of the country, and of the people generally, if the best-educated and most respectable among them were selected for these posts, justice would certainly be more efficiently administered, and the Government would effect an immense saving by the change. The writer admits that since European officers come from a distant land, and are of the same race as the governing body, they have a right to large salaries; but he says, if Hindostanees were employed, the best men in the country might be easily obtained on even Rs. 1,000 a month. He proceeds to state

that at present only 5 or 10 vakeels earn from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 25,000 a month in the High Court, and are not superior in rank or dignity to Zillah Judges, yet, notwithstanding, many people are very anxious to become vakeels in the same Court, and, with this object in view, endeavour to learn the English language, and to have their children taught English. He thinks that if this hope—viz., the chance of their becoming qualified for such high positions—were held out to them, their ambition would increase materially, their moral conduct be much improved; and although such appointments could only be filled by a few hundreds, the hope of attaining them would lead to good results—even in the many who tried to qualify themselves for them and failed. The writer admits that some inducement to exertion is offered to Natives of India by the Subordinate Judgeships, Munsifships, &c., which are already open to them; but thinks, that in the selection of candidates for these offices, too little regard is shown to general acquirements, and too much to a mere knowledge of law gained by exclusive study. This principle of selection often results in the appointment of men otherwise illiberal and ill-educated, and in too many cases success in the examination is the result of unfair means—such as copying and “cribbing.” If men of general ability were selected by a general examination as in England, the result in stimulating to exertion in self-education would be much more considerable than it now is. The writer further thinks that in the Police Department great improvement is needed, and that the money saved by the substitution of Natives for Europeans as Judges should be devoted to it and the army. He concludes as follows,—“We say, with the greatest confidence, that the present Police afford no sort of protection, and good people have cause to fear, while evil ones are fearless. We can give many instances and proofs of all we have said.”

The *Nasim Jounpore* of the 15th of March, the *Lawrence Gazette* of the 16th, and the *Karnama* of the 14th, do not call for special notice.

The *Oudh Ukhbar* of the 15th of March complains of the great annoyance people are subjected to from the want of proper sanitary arrangements in the city of Lucknow. The streets, ditches, and water-courses, are said to be in a most filthy condition, and the absence of any efficient watering of the roads is also much felt. The writer expresses some fear that unless proper arrangements are soon made, the approaching hot weather will bring much sickness.

In the epitome of news allusion is made to the estate of the late Nawab Ameer Mirza Sahib, to which other heirs are said to have sprung up ; and the estate has consequently been placed under attachment by order of the Civil Court. The writer expresses regret that as the property of the late Nawab was plundered in his lifetime, so now also it is being squandered away ; and he recommends a full enquiry into the subject, as he is convinced that Government can justly lay claim to a considerable portion of the property.

The *Mofid-ool Anam* of the 17th of March does not call for special notice.

The *Allygurh Institute Gazette* of the 18th of March publishes an account of the opening of the British Parliament from the pen of Moulvie Syed Ahmed Khan, C.S.I., dated London, February 18th, 1870.

The writer relates how Lord Lawrence had promised to meet him at the Peer's entrance, and get him admitted into the house. " The door-keepers, who were dressed in a splendid livery, asked what I wanted, or whether I wished to go in. I said I was waiting for Lord Lawrence, so they allowed me to enter a room where there were chairs and tables, and there told me to wait. I sat down and saw the ladies of the Nobility arriving, but none other except the Members of the House of Lords, and those who possessed tickets, were allowed to enter. About 2 P.M., which was the hour for opening Parliament, the head officer addressed me saying that it was a

great pity Lord Lawrence had not entered by that door, and suggested that he might have gone in at some other, and as only a few minutes remained, it might be as well for him (the officer) to provide a ticket for me. I said 'if you please,' and followed him to the office where I at once got a ticket. He asked me whether I was not waiting for Lord Lawrence to see the opening of Parliament, and I said 'yes'. He asked me whether I was a native of Bengal, I said 'of the North-Western Provinces.' He then kindly gave me tickets for myself and sons, and we entered and took our places, and had a good view of all that went on. Her Majesty was unwell and unable to open Parliament in person, it was therefore done by Commission." The writer concludes by giving a translation of the Royal Speech.

The *Social Science Congress* of the 4th of March does not call for special notice.

The *Gwalior Gazette* of the 13th of March refers to a statement in the *Rattan Prakash*, concerning the object of Colonel Brook's visit to Jodhpore—*viz.*, that it was in the hope of getting Nava and Godah made over to the British Government by the Rajah of Jodhpore; but, says the writer, it apparently did not answer, for no one cares to give up his claims to landed property, and least of all the Rajahs of Hindoostan. The Chief of Jodhpore has also some concern about another matter, *viz.*, Mugra Mairwarra was included in the State of Marwar. The British Government took it on lease, and when the term of the lease had expired, the Rajah renewed it on the same conditions; but when the second term had also expired, the Rajah wished to resume it. The Government was at first willing to give it up, but afterwards hinted that the Rajah ought to take a certain sum in lieu of it, putting forward the usual pretext that the people were dissatisfied with his rule. The *Pioneer* raises the question whether this was necessary or not. This will be determined by the British Parliament, for the Rajah intends to carry the matter thither for decision.

The *Dubdubba Sekundree* of the 14th of March, and the *Mujma-ool Bahrain* of the 16th, do not call for special notice. The *Mofid-ool Anam* of the 15th of March is also barren of noticeable matter.

The *Punjabee Ukhbar* of the 19th of March, on the authority of a correspondent at Ulwar, alludes to the injustice and tyranny exercised by the Rajah towards his people. It is said that he has discharged several troops of cavalry and a battalion of infantry, and has refused to pay them a year's arrears of pay that were due; that he has brought on the revenue roll the *Jaghirs* of several proprietors and *Mahunts*, and resumed the *altumgha* and other *namee* tenures. The strongest part of it is that he has had it proclaimed in Rajgurrh and other villages bordering on Jeypore, that no shopkeeper of the Ulwar territory is to have any commercial dealing with the people of Jeypore, under severe penalties; and further, that he will take ten rupees for every single rupee of Jeypore money found in any of their shops. The editor expresses great regret at all this, and is surprised that the Chief does not well consider the certain consequences of it. He concludes, "he does not reflect that his ancestors were like other *Jaghirdars* of Jeypore; and that Ulwar owes all its prosperity to that State."

This paper mentions that the Nawab Nazim of Bengal had the opportunity given him of joining in an entertainment in London, but that the honour was declined, because he would not go against the principles of his religion. It is further said that in consequence of this, some Europeans of rank in England have started an enquiry on the subject among the learned men of Hindoostan, as to whether there is any valid ground or not for the refusal, and he hazards an opinion that they will support all that Syed Ahmed Khan has advanced on the subject.

Referring to the munificent gifts of the Nawab of Jona-gurrh, the Maharajah of Baroda, the Rao of Kutch, and Rajah

of Bhownugger, &c., in honour of the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to Bombay. The editor of this paper thinks that if the Rajahs of the Punjab were to follow so excellent an example, it would add glory to their names.

The *Koh-i-Noor* of the 19th of March, the *Neyar Ukbar* of the 3rd, the same paper of the 10th, the *Kalied Ummeid* of the 19th, the *Oordoo Delhi Gazette* of the 19th, the *Jagat Samachar* of the 14th, and the *Marwar Gazette* of the 7th, do not call for special notice.

The *Samai Binod* of the 15th of March alludes to the obsolete Enactment Bill which has been introduced into the Legislative Council by Mr. Stephen. The writer comments upon the great variety of laws in force in India, and expresses his conviction of the necessity and utility of the proposed Act.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined
in this report, viz.:—

No.	NAME OF PAPER.	WHERE PUB- LISHED.	DATE.	WHEN RE- CEIVED.
			1870.	1870.
1	<i>Allygurh Institute Gazette,</i>	Allygurh, ...	March, 11th	March, 16th
2	<i>Malwa Ukhbar,</i> ...	Indore, ...	" 9th	" 16th
3	<i>Ukhbar-i-Alum,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	" 10th	" 16th
4	<i>Educational Gazette,</i> ...	Agra, ...	" 10th	" 16th
5	<i>Koh-i-Noor,</i> ...	Lahore, ...	" 12th	" 16th
6	<i>Oordoo Delhi Gazette,</i> ...	Agra, ...	" 12th	" 16th
7	<i>Unjamun Hind,</i> ...	Lucknow, ...	" 12th	" 17th
8	<i>Julwatoor,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	" 15th	" 17th
9	<i>Khair Khwah-i-Punjab,</i> ...	Goojranwalla, ...	2nd week,	" 17th
10	<i>Rohilkhund Ukhbar,</i> ...	Moradabad, ...	" 12th	" 18th
11	<i>Sholatoor,</i> ...	Cawnpore, ...	" 15th	" 18th
12	<i>Noor-ool-Absar,</i> ...	Allahabad, ...	" 15th	" 18th
13	<i>Nusseem Jounpore,</i> ...	Jounpore, ...	" 15th	" 18th
14	<i>Lawrence Gazette,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	" 16th	" 18th
15	<i>Karnama,</i> ...	Lucknow, ...	" 14th	" 19th
16	<i>Oudh Ukhbar,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	" 15th	" 19th
17	<i>Moofid-ool Anam,</i> ...	Futtehgurh, ...	" 17th	" 19th
18	<i>Allygurh Institute Gazette,</i>	Allygurh, ...	" 18th	" 20th
19	<i>Social Science Congress,</i>	Jeypore, ...	" 11th	" 21st
20	<i>Gwalior Gazette,</i> ...	Gwalior, ...	" 13th	" 21st
21	<i>Dubdubba Sekundree,</i> ...	Rampore, ...	" 14th	" 21st
22	<i>Mujma-ool Bharain,</i> ...	Loodiana, ...	" 16th	" 21st
23	<i>Moofid-i-Am,</i> ...	Agra, ...	" 15th	" 22nd
24	<i>Punjabee Ukhbar,</i> ...	Lahore, ...	" 19th	" 22nd
25	<i>Koh-i-Noor,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	" 19th	" 22nd
26	<i>Neyar Akbar Ukhbar,</i> ...	Bijnour, ...	" 3rd	" 23rd
27	<i>Ditto,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	" 10th	" 23rd
28	<i>Kaleid Ummeid,</i> ...	Lahore, ...	" 19th	" 23rd
29	<i>Oordoo Dehli Gazette,</i> ...	Agra, ...	" 19th	" 23rd
30	<i>Jagat Samachar,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	" 14th	" 16th
31	<i>Marwar Gazette,</i> ...	Jodhpore, ...	" 7th	" 17th
32	<i>Samai Binod,</i> ...	Nynce Tal, ...	" 15th	" 17th

(True translation,)

GEORGE WAGENTREIBER,

Government Reporter on the Vernacular Press,

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Upper India.